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REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Amendments.

A. To the Specification.

The amendments to the specification are to provide updated priority information for the instant application. No new matter has been introduced into the specification as a result of these amendments.

B. To the Claims.

The claims have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections in the Office Action dated June 26, 2003. Specifically, the limitations of claim 16 have been introduced into independent claim 15. Claim 16 has correspondingly been cancelled. Claims 21, 22, 35, and 36 have been amended to conform more closely to the revised language of amended claim 15 and to correct minor grammatical errors.

No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of these amendments.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 16, 22, 23, 28, and 31, but has stated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite the allowance of claims in the instant application, the limitations of claim 16 have been incorporated into independent claim 15, with all remaining claims being dependent thereupon. However, the Applicant reserves the right to pursue in future applications subject matter asserted by the Examiner as being non-patentable in the instant application.

In view of the amendments presented herein, it is submitted that the outstanding rejection of claims 15, 17-20, 24-27, 29, 32, 33, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome.

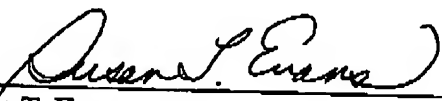
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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the claims pending in the application patentably define over the cited art. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 631-3487.

Respectfully submitted,
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